



# State of Connecticut

## Police Officer Standards and Training Council Connecticut Police Academy



### Proposed Bill No. 6113

#### An Act Concerning The Investigation of Missing Persons Reports

As Executive Director of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and a representative of the Council's Legislative Committee, I have been authorized to advise this Committee that the provisions of this proposed bill are redundant, costly and for the most part already in place.

In January, 2008 the Council, pursuant to then Public Act 07-151, issued to every Law Enforcement Agency in this State "A Policy of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council – Guidelines for Handling Missing Persons Investigations and the Acceptance of Reports".

Specifically, this proposed bill has six provisions which I will respond to:

1. The immediate acceptance of any report of adult missing person. This is already part of the above Guidelines referenced about.
2. Mandate sensitivity training for all police officers. Currently, sensitivity training is taught to all Recruits at the Connecticut Police Academy and every satellite academy in the state in a number of areas which include: Cultural/Human Diversity, Human Behavior, Juvenile Law, Child Abuse, People with Special Needs, Sexual Assault, Conflict Resolution, Domestic Violence, Suicide Management and Prevention, Interview Techniques, Immigration Law, Authority and Discretion and Victim/Witness Advocacy.
3. Issue to all police officers a compact disc for use in any police car detailing a step-by-step procedure to follow upon receipt of a report of a missing person. There are currently approximately 8,200 certified Police Officers in this State and another approximate 1,200 State Troopers for a total estimate of 9,400 law enforcement officers. In addition to the hard costs and staff time to generate compact discs there are other labor costs to write the format, edit the product, produce it, deliver it and assure that some training takes place to use it. In addition to an estimated cost of \$770.00 in materials, given the current limitations of production this would take an estimated 20 full work weeks for our I.T. staff member to reproduce. This would be an unfunded requirement for an agency that has already suffered staff cuts and budget reductions.
4. Complete National Crime Information Center missing person reports fully and timely. This is included in our Recruit curriculum at the Connecticut Police Academy as well as all satellite academies in the state.
5. Train all new police officer recruits in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. This is already included in our Recruit curriculum at the Connecticut Police Academy as well as all satellite academies.
6. Mandate collection of DNA from homicide victims and from John or Jane Does who are in a coma, have amnesia or have Alzheimer's disease. The collection of DNA is included in the above referenced Guidelines.

Thomas E. Flaherty, Executive Director, Police Officer Standards and Training Council



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285 Preston Avenue • Meriden, Connecticut 06450-4891

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